

Appl. No.: 10/023,732  
Amdt. dated 04/17/2006  
Reply to Office action of February 22, 2006

### REMARKS

Claims 7-15 and 17-29 are currently pending in the present application and Claims 7-15, 17-23, and 27-29 have been allowed. In the Office Action dated February 22, 2006, Claims 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,742,907 to Funamoto et al. ("Funamoto"). In response to the Office Action, Applicant has amended independent Claim 24 to include recitations similar to those of allowed independent Claims 7 and 13. As explained below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention of amended Claim 24, and by dependency Claims 25 and 26, is patentably distinct from the Funamoto patent. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims of the present application.

With regard to the allowance of independent Claims 7 and 13, page 4 of the Office Action recognizes that the prior art of record does not disclose "a window disposed adjacent a display, and through which a display is viewable, wherein an outer surface of the window facing the display is provided with an incorporated grating for distributing light from the illumination source in the direction of the display without the light passing through the window." As amended, independent Claim 24 now recites a "display window for placement in registration with a display so that the display is viewable through the window, wherein a first outer surface of the window is for exposure to a user, and a second outer surface of the window is for placement adjacent the display, the second outer surface being provided with an incorporated grating to distribute light from an associated external source of illumination in the direction of the display without light passing through the window." Thus, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 24 is allowable for at least the same reasons as independent Claims 7 and 13.

Specifically, Funamoto does not teach or suggest a display window having an outer surface which is provided with an incorporated grating "to distribute light from an associated external source of illumination in the direction of the display, without light passing through the window," as now recited by independent Claim 24. In contrast, Funamoto is directed towards inputting light at an end face 16 of a light-guide plate 11 and then using total internal reflection to illuminate the illuminated element 6. See Funamoto, col. 8, lines 49-65. Funamoto specifically states that "[a]fter the optical flux from a point light source is input from end face 16

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as shown by ray 19a or 19b, it is subjected to total reflection within the light-guide plate 11 and is emitted solely from the side faces 15 of the projections 12, so the optical output from the back face of the illumination device is large, enabling illuminated element 6 to be efficiently illuminated." Funamoto, col. 8, lines 59-65. There is no suggestion in Funamoto to use any method of illuminating a display other than shining light directly into the end face of a light-guide plate so that the light passes through the window.

Furthermore, the light guide plate 11 in Funamoto is particularly designed for light to be shone into and reflected through the light-guide plate 11. Specifically, the shape of the projections 12 of the light-guide plate 11 in Funamoto have been designed so that when the light being reflected within the light-guide plate 11 meets the interface between a projection 12 and the air, the light is directed towards the illuminated element 6. See, e.g., Funamoto, Fig. 81A. For example, column 9, lines 51-65 describe how to design the projections 12, stating "[r]egarding a ratio of the height and width . . . of projections 12, this may be below 1:1 since the angle of elevation of a light ray within the light-guide plate 11 and the planar direction is less than 45°; and in fact satisfactory performance is exhibited up to a ratio of about 1:2, since rays of under 20° represent more than 90%." (Emphasis added.) No consideration is given as to how the projections would have to be formed if light from an external source of illumination were to be distributed in the direction of the display without light passing through the window. As such, Funamoto does not teach or suggest a display window having an outer surface which is provided with an incorporated grating "to distribute light from an associated external source of illumination in the direction of the display, without light passing through the window," as recited by amended independent Claim 24. Accordingly, the rejection of independent Claim 24, as well as the rejection of dependent Claims 25 and 26, has been overcome.

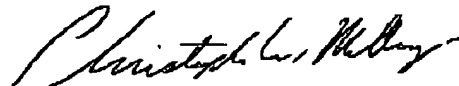
#### Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

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It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.


Respectfully submitted,

  
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